

### Summer Term 2011

#### Recent Activities

We held a very successful Buzzin' Brass and Wacky Woodwind afternoon in February. All beginner brass and woodwind players in the Ascot, Maidenhead and Windsor area were invited. They all had fun playing music together and making lots of noise! For the older more experienced players, we held a very enjoyable Chamber Concert at St John's Church in Eton. It was a new venue for us and we had a lovely evening. The string ensembles all took part in the annual String Concert which also included young players learning at school in the Wider Opportunities project.

#### Auditions

We will be holding auditions for our senior band and ensemble members on Saturday 14 May. They will be held during the morning and everyone will be notified beforehand of their allotted time. Offer letters will be sent out to parents advising of promotions and suggested memberships by half term. If your young musician would like to join a band or ensemble please contact the music centre office for information.

Windsor Music Centre is growing! We have lots of new younger pupils and ensemble members but we always welcome more. This is great news for the future of our Music Centre. If you are an aspiring young musician, or have brothers, sisters or friends who would like to join us, let them know about our lessons and ensembles. Anyone is welcome to come and visit us to find out more.

#### Choir News



The Royal Borough Children's Choir is proving to be very popular and is growing every week. **Saturday 14 May** is "Bring a Buddy Day" and the children are being encouraged to bring a friend to sing in the choir with them so that they can see how much fun it is!

**Saturday 21 May - Royal Borough Children's Choir, Song Factory, Pan Flutes** and soloists will be performing in a charity concert in White Waltham to help raise money for a new community centre.

#### Our Junior Groups:

<b>Brass</b>	Buzzin' Brass	Friday	16.30 – 17.15
<b>Choir</b>	RBCC	Saturday	10.10 – 10.55
<b>Guitars</b>	Banditos	Saturday	9.30 – 10.15
<b>Strings</b>	Vivo Violin/Cellos	Saturday	11.10 – 12.10
<b>Woodwind</b>	Wacky Woodwind	Saturday	10.00 – 10.45

#### Beginner Ensembles held in the Maidenhead Area

**Strings** Maidenhead Magic String Band  
Tuesday 5.15pm – 6.00pm at All Saints Junior

**Woodwind** Maidenhead Junior Wind Band  
Tuesday 3.45pm – 4.30pm at Courthouse Junior

Come and try your first ensemble for only £20 for the first term. Pick up your beginner ensemble application from the office or email;  
[windsor@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:windsor@berkshiremaestros.org.uk)

#### SUMMER TERM DATES 2011

**Saturday 30 April**

First Saturday Music Centre  
Friends Association AGM

**Tuesday 3 May**

Lessons in Schools and Music Centre start

**Saturday 7 May**

Friends Association Jazz Evening

**Friday 13 May**

Chamber Concert

**Saturday 14 May**

Percussion Platform

**Saturday 21 May**

"Phil the Bag" – Fundraising Collection  
White Waltham Charity Concert

**Saturday 28 May – Saturday 4 June**

Half Term

**Monday June 6 – Saturday June 11 (inclusive)**

Zephyr play at Maidenhead Carnival  
No music centre lessons or activities

**Saturday 2 July**

Last Saturday Music Centre  
Garden Party and Gala Concerts

#### 2 July at Windsor Music Centre

8.30 – 13.15	Usual rehearsals
12.00 – 14.00	Come and Try the Instruments
12.00 – 14.00	Garden Party – Chamber Groups
Refreshments will be available throughout the day.	
15.00 – 16.30	Junior Gala Concert
18.00 – 20.00	Senior Gala Concert

#### CONTACTING WINDSOR MUSIC CENTRE

##### Office Opening Hours:

Monday – closed  
Tuesday – 10.00 – 18.00  
Wednesday – 11.00 – 19.00  
Thursday – 14.00 – 19.00  
Friday – 10.00 – 18.00  
Saturday – 08.00 – 13.00

**Tel: 0118 9439 620 (direct dial)**



*These are general hours and there will be occasions when the office is not manned. If you need to visit us call first to make sure that someone will be in. To report an absence on Saturday only – 07794 344973.*

**We now use email as our preferred method of communication**

## From the Friends' Association

Warmest wishes from the EBMC Friends' Committee to all the readers of this bulletin! We're looking forward to another term of wonderful events, opportunities and exciting developments at the Windsor Music Centre. The "Friends" will be contributing their support to many of the summer term's concerts and events.

### FRIENDS' JAZZ EVENING – Saturday 7 May, 7.00pm – Holyport War Memorial Hall

We're delighted to present the annual FRIENDS' JAZZ EVENING. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend a relaxing, informal evening listening to Windsor Music Centre's Jazz Orchestra (EBO), Jazz Training Orchestra (EJTO), plus Sue Dunsdon and Friends, while at the same time helping raise funds for the senior ensembles' activities. If you love jazz, bring your friends and come to this event, which includes a 'Bring and Share' supper. **JAZZ EVENING tickets are now on sale in the Tuck Shop Cafe and the Music Centre Office. Book yours early to avoid disappointment!**

### CLEAR YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS - Help those in need and help us raise funds at the same time

We've been delighted by the response to our latest fundraising effort – the "Phil the Bag" collection in February raised £87.15. We are having another collection in May and will be handing out bags for filling on 14 May. May we encourage you to **please fill your bag with unwanted clothing and other textiles, belts and shoes and bring it in on Saturday 21 May – raise valuable funds to support our students while at the same time helping others in need!**

### TUCK SHOP CAFE

We'd like to thank all parents, carers, students and staff for making the Tuck Shop Cafe such a vibrant success, not only as a key part of the Friends' fundraising effort, but also because its energy and friendly ambience flow throughout the entire Music Centre. This atmosphere was remarked upon most admiringly by the Berkshire Maestros' CEO, Philip Litchfield, Trustees and other visitors attending the recent Berkshire Maestros' AGM, on Saturday 12 February. All of this is down to the initiatives and collaboration of staff and parents. Coinciding with World Book Night on 5 March, we launched the "Tuck Shop Book Swap" and also a new "Novelties Stall" – both of these are parent-initiated ideas which will be raising funds this term and next for Mini Maestros' activities.

**HOT NEWS!!** The weekly total for sales of hot sandwiches has reached three figures!! An enormous thank-you to our regular and new customers on this great achievement!! We've also introduced some alternatives to chocolate snacks and thank parents for their helpful suggestions. We're extremely grateful to our many very hard-working regular Saturday volunteers. Their invaluable commitment enables the magic to happen!

### FRIENDS ASSOCIATION AGM – Saturday 30 April, 10.00am-11.00am – in the Tuck Shop Cafe

Please come along to our AGM to support your Friends' Association and to have your say in how it is run. For anyone who would like to get more involved, we will also welcome nominations for new Committee Members, since we have some vacancies.

This is my last newsletter contribution as Chairman of the Friends' Association Committee, as I will be stepping back from the role, which I've undertaken for the past six years, at the AGM. I'd like to offer my very warmest thanks to everyone at the Music Centre for having made **this role such a truly enjoyable one!** It has been a very great pleasure and privilege as Chairman to meet and encourage so many wonderful parents, students and families; to give support to our outstanding staff and the Berkshire Maestros organisation; and to further assist in forging many important creative and educational links with the wider community. I'd like to thank the committee and volunteers, particularly, for their truly exceptional encouragement, inspiration and friendship throughout the challenges of these years and I look forward, in turn, to supporting a new Chairman as the important work – and the tremendous fun – of the Friends' Association continues!

Have a really wonderful summer!  
Susy Shearer, Chairman

### Change to Berkshire Maestros' Annual Reporting Procedures

From Summer 2011, Berkshire Maestros will be changing the way in which we report pupil progress to parents. There will be no formal written annual report this year. Instead, during the second half of the summer term, all teaching staff will write a short comment in the back of the pupil's practice diary - either in the teacher comment box or on the 'notes' page. This comment will refer to the pupil's progress and attainment and highlight expected targets for improvement in the usual manner. From September 2011, it is intended that teacher assessment comments will be completed termly in the student practice diary to help children become aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and to be involved in identifying, with their teacher, what they need to do to improve.

Parents are asked to contact Maestros by email at [reports@berkshiremaestros.org.uk](mailto:reports@berkshiremaestros.org.uk) if they have not received teacher comments in their child's practice diary by the end of June or with any queries.

### Are you a UK taxpayer?

We can claim Gift Aid on donations and ensemble membership fees - tax relief on every pound you give. To qualify for Gift Aid, you must pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that Maestros reclaims on your donations or eligible membership fees in a tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next). If you qualify and wish the tax to be reclaimed on any donations or membership subscriptions that you have ever made or will make to Berkshire Maestros, please complete the relevant section on the payment slip at the bottom of your enclosed invoice.

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Music Services for...

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